



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes of September 16, 2013

The meeting convened at 5:35pm.

Board Members Present: Nathaniel Yohalem, Chairman
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Bosworth, Administrative Secretary

Transfer Station

Bobby Litchfield from the Transfer Station appeared before the Board to discuss the suspension of permit #310 belonging to a resident who is currently living in Scotland. Her house on East Hill Road is for sale and in her absence she had given her permit to a gentleman from Housatonic to remove any trash from the premises. The Transfer Station just became aware that even though the house remains empty, the Housatonic resident continues to bring refuse on Sundays. Until the owner communicates with the Board about her permit, it will be suspended.

Review, discuss, approve and sign warrants, correspondence and minutes.

Minutes of September 9, 2013 were approved as amended.

Bridges and Culverts Updates

To date the Town has sent out a total of 6 bid packages for the Foley Bridge Project. Chairman Yohalem was updated on the status of the Clayton Mill River Culvert by the Highway Superintendent. Work is being done by the engineering company and the Board is hoping to receive the report on the cost to repair the culvert by the middle of October.

Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring updated the Board on the bridge report from MassDOT regarding an inspection of the Campbell Falls Bridge. The inspection report was forwarded to the Ratings Department in Boston and the Town is waiting for its response. Charles will keep in contact with Mark Devylder, Bridge Engineer for MassDOT, on the status of the inspection report.

Town Hall Security

Currently two estimates have been received by Administrative Assistant, Michael Skorput for new locks for the Town Hall. A third is expected later this week. The Board will discuss this matter at the next Selectmen's Meeting, September 23, with its final decision.

The Highway Foreman, Paul Krom, was given a good evaluation by Administrative Assistant, Michael Skorput and Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring. Paul will receive, effective immediately, a 50¢ an hour increase in salary to complete the \$1.00 an hour total agreed upon after the completion of 90 days in the position of Highway Forman.

Department Heads Meeting

Building Inspector, Tom Carmody, discussed the inquiry regarding the right-of-way [345 Old Hitchcock Road]. It his understanding that there is no public right-of-way there and a special permit would be needed to build a house on the property. A letter is to be written by Administrative Assistant, Michael Skorput, to the property owner, so that he may submit it to his title insurance company.

Tax Collector, Caren Adams, indicated that the collections were going well but feels that there are some gaps in communication between the Treasurer and the Accountant, and between her office and the two aforementioned offices. The Tax Collector and Treasurer met and resolved most of the issues between them. A meeting with the Accountant and the Tax Collector will take place to resolve the one remaining item regarding the preparation of quarterly forms.

Assessor, Marsha Pshenishny, reported that her office is the process of a reevaluation and expects to have the tax rate ready in November. She advised to keep new growth low for budget purposes.

Town Clerk, Katherine Chretien, raised the issue of storage for Town Records. There was discussion of expanding the Town Hall and installing a vault or renting a space at the main campus of the School [Mount Everett Regional]. The idea will be brought to School Superintendent, Dave Hastings, later this evening. The Town Clerk is waiting to hear from the State to know if it is permissible to store Town Records off-site.

Announcements

The Board received a letter from the Library concerning the leaking of the bulk head door to the oil tank. Neil Crawford assessed the door and recommended that it be replaced to avoid the risk of the deterioration of the oil tank caused by moisture. The replacement is to be done in the second week of September in the total amount of \$1076.00.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted to authorize the expenditure of \$1076.00 to replace the bulk head door on the north side of the Library.

Another request of the Library is to make the front entrance handicapped accessible. It has asked Dan Litchfield to look into the cost of the project and provide the Board with an estimate.

The Board and Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring, met with another candidate for the position of Highway Driver prior to the meeting. After he exited the interview, the Board and Mr. Loring discussed the four applicants and decided to make an offer to one of them. Mr. Loring will make contact with the candidate this week.

It was noted that last week Police Chief, Scott Farrell, discussed new software for the Police Department. The Board decided not to act on it until an annual maintenance contract was proposed. The Board will revisit the matter at next week's meeting.

It was also noted that last week the Board discussed the notice from the Subcommittee of the School Committee regarding the agenda for the September 26th meeting. Chairman Yohalem contacted the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Vito Valentini, and it was agreed that the meeting would consist of the Towns of Monterey and Egremont presenting reports of the capital needs of each of the schools and would not include the programs being held at them. Mr. Valentini also stated that the following agenda would include an analysis of the capital needs of New Marlborough Central School for which the Town may need to hire an Engineer and that there may be funds in the school budget to do so.

Chairman Yohalem read aloud items of correspondence including an application for a Special Permit for Michael White who has entered into a contract to purchase the American Legion building to open his construction company office. Notices have been published for the Special Permit hearing which is scheduled for the agenda for September 30th.

Additional correspondence included a letter from the New Marlborough Historical Society thanking the Highway Department for its demonstration project at the New Marlborough Village Cemetery. "Without the water you [Highway Department] supplied, nothing could have been accomplished."

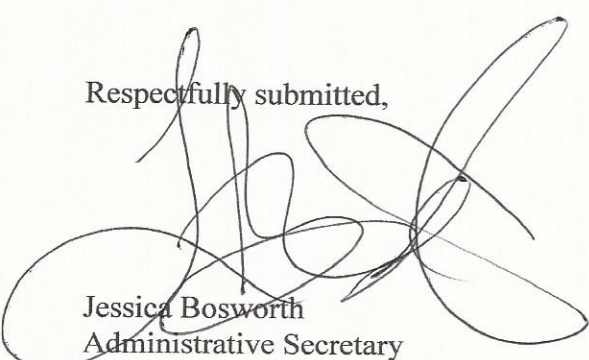
Chairman Yohalem noted that a representative from the State Emergency Management office met with him and Board member Michele Shalaby earlier today. The representative made a suggestion to use a local high school student to research possible State and/or Federal grants available to the Town. The selected intern would be paid on an hourly basis from the Town's grant portion of the budget.

The State Emergency Management representative also discussed a grant to be received by the Town for the Highway Department requesting new barriers, cones and signs. Two of the items, cones and signs, have been taken off of the grant and are no longer allowable. A list will be sent to the Board with allowable items, to then be reviewed by the Highway Superintendent.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted to adjourn at 6:14pm.

The Board will then meet with new School Superintendent, Dave Hastings at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Bosworth
Administrative Secretary